ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Fourteenth Annual Session

OF THE

HOPEWELL

OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH

Pleasant Ridge Church - Tuscaloosa County, Ala.

October 14, 15, and 16, 1898.

OFFICERS.

L. M. WIMBERLEY, - - Moderator, - Vernon Ala.
J. C. CHANDLER. - - - Clerk, - Bell, Ala.

The next session of this Association will be held with Hopewell church, six miles north of Fayette C. H. Fayette county, Alabama, commencing on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October 1898.

VERNON, ALABAMA.
LAMAR DEMOCRAT PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1898.

Received of J. C. Chandler $7.00 for printing 400 copies of these minutes. Lamar Democrat.

MINUTES

1st. The introductory sermon was delivered by Eld. J S Kitchens, from Matt. 16th chapter and latter part of 18th verse. "And upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

2nd. After intermission of an hour, the delegates reassembled in the meeting house—effected temporary organization by electing L M Wimberly Moderator, and J C Chandler Clerk. Then called names of churches and enrolled names of delegates. (See table.)

3rd. By motion and second made temporary organization permanent.

4th. Opened the door of the Association for newly constituted churcher.

5th. Appointed committee on arrangement as follows: J W Brock, S J Norris, D T Moore with the moderator and clerk.

6th. Appointed committee on finance as follows: G R Trawick, and T J Brock.

7th. Appointed committee on preaching viz: J D Spencer, W A Dyer, J A Awtry, J T Livingston, W R Evans, Robt. Moore, G W Dodson, W M Ward, A J Brown, J C Chandler and J C Smith.

8th. Appointed W R Brown to write corresponding letter.

9th. Arranged Union meetings as follows: 1st District will convene with Zion church on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in August, 1899. The 2nd District will convene with Little Hope church on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1899.

10th Called for correspondence from sister Associations, and received from Lost Creek a bundle of minutes by her messengers, Eld. J S Kitchens, W J Hocut. From Pilgrims rest, a bundle of minutes by her messengers, Elds.

J M Carver, M C Hollinsworth, J C Nabors and brethren W H Daniel, A E Jones, D W Wiley and W J Sutton. From Buttahatchie, letter and minutes by her messengers to-wit: W P Dean, J W Moore and J A Waddell. From Little Black and Little Hope no tidings.

11th. By motion and second, adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Prayer by Elder J W Brock.

SATURDAY SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Eld. J M Carver.

12th. Called the roll; quorum present.

13th, Called for bill of arrangement, the committee having adopted last years minutes, its report was received and committee discharged.

14th. Read Constitution. Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum of the Association.

15th. Invited visiting brethren in the ministry to seats with us.

16th. Called on committee on preaching who reported that Elders J C Nabors and W R Brown preach before noon, and Elder C H Davis afternoon.

17th. Appointed correspondence as follows; To Pilgrims Rest. H M Bankston, S J Norris and C H Davis. To Buttahatchie, H M Bankston, D T Moore, Robert Moore, J F Davis, J T Livingston, J C Smith and W Dorris. To Little Hope, D T Moore, and H M Bankston, To Lost Creek, W R Evans, J C Smith, D T Moore L M Wimberley and R L White. To Little Black, C H Davis and L M Wimberley. To Five Mile Creek, G W Berry and C H Davis.

18th. Agreed that the next convening of this body be with Hopewell church, six miles north of Fayette C H, on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1899.

19th Appointed J C Chandler Treasurer.

20th. Called on committee on finance which reported $13.00 contribution this year; in the hands of the Treasurer $3.50.

21st. Appointed clerk to superintend printing of the minutes, that he have 400 copies printed, reserve for correspondence, and distribute the remainder among the churches.

22nd. Compensated clerk $8.00.

23rd. Requested moderator to tender the thanks of

this body to the brethren, sisters and friends for their kindness and hospitality extended to us during our stay among them.

24th. Appointed brethren to preach on Sunday to-wit: Elders J M Carver and L M Wimberley.

25th. Called for corresponding letter, which was handed in read received and ordered prin'e l in the minutes.

26th. Opened the door for promiscious business. 1 Agreed that Elder L M Wimberley prepare a suitable obituary notice of the death of our esteemed brother, Elder G W Norris. 1 Agreed to request each church to state in her next letter to the Association. whether she wishes to continue the habit of having dinner on the ground on Saturday at our Associations or not.

27th. Read the minutes for correction.

28th. Adjourned to time and place of our next session. L. M. WIMBERLEY, Moderator.
J. C. CHANDLER, Clerk.

The brethren appointed to preach on Sunday appeared in the order of their names, and preached to a large attentive audience, with power and demonstration of the Spirit. Clerk.

Corresponding Letter.

The Hopewell Old School Baptist Association in her Fourteenth Annual Session, to her Sister Associations With Whom She Corresponds, Greeting:

Very dear sisters:—Through the goodness and mercy of God, we are again permitted to meet with Pleasant Ridge church Tuscaloosa county, Alabama, and we are happy to say that the business of our body is progressing harmoniously for which we feel thankful to our great Lawgiver.

Dear sisters, your correspondence were cordially received, though not as full as we desire, and we would say that we not only desire a continuance of the same, but let us try by the help of God to increase our correspondence in the future. The next session of our body will be held with Hopewell church, six miles north of Fayette C H, Fayette county, Alabama, commencing on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1899, when and where we hope to meet you in friendly correspondence again. Dear sisters pray for us. L. M. Wimberley, Moderator.
J C Chandler, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches in our Union, who, on producing letters certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number in fellowship, those baptized. received by letter, dismissed. excommunicated or dead since the last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known as the Hopewell Old School Baptist Association who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches in our Union. but shall merely be considered an advisory council in matters respecting their internal concerns, for the common benefit of all such churches; but the Association shall have power to exclude any church from the Union who shall violate or deviate from the rules of the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

4. Every church in the Union shall be entitled to three messengers, and should any church fail or neglect to represent herself, she shall state the reason of such failure in her next letter to the Association.

5. New churches may be admitted into the Union who shall petition by letter and messengers, and, upon examination, if found orthordox and orderly, shall be received, and the reception thereof manifested by the moderator giving the right hand.

6. The Association when convened shall be governed by regular and proper rules of decorum which it is authorized to form for itself.

7. The Association shall appoint a moderator from among its members, for the time being, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules of decorum be observed and take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before it; also a clerk shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of their proceedings.

8. Every query sent by a particular church must be enclosed in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to settle it, but could not: in which case the Association shall take it under consideration, and give its advice.

9. Queries which immediately concern the Union or the state of the churches at large, when sent by a particular church as from them, or handed in by proper motion and seconded, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as opportunity will permit.

10. The Association shall have a fund for the support of the same, which shall be supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, whose duty it shall be to send it by the hands of her messengers, which moneys shall be deposited in the hands of the treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all moneys by him received.

11. The clerk shall keep a file of the minutes of each year's proceedings, which shall serve as a record for the Association.

12. The Association in all cases shall be governed by a majority of the members present.

13. The Association shall correspond with other Associations as may be agreed on while in session.

14. The Association shall at her first session appoint a committee consisting of one from each church represented (Ministers excepted) whose duty it shall be to arrange preaching until the next Association is organized, and if advised by the Association, appoint a brother to write a circular letter for the next year, which rule shall be observed at every session thereafter.

15. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of its proceedings.

16. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any time when two-thirds of the churches composing the Association may deem it necessary.

17. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary signed by the moderator and attested by the clerk, before the Association rises.

18. Resolved, That we will not hold in our union any church or churches, who hold in their fellowship any member or members who will not renounce every secret order or clan—political or religious—whether past present or to come, or that claims or expresses by word or act any interest therein, directly or indirectly, whether for oath or honor's sake, or personal interest or paternal advantage of such, whether at home or abroad, sick or well, in adversity or prosperity, or in any condition, or for any cause not herein mentioned; we must not, we can not, we will not fellowship or commune with them.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. But one person shall speak at a time; and shall rise to his feet and address the moderator.

3. No person shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person making it, and if there are two or more motions before the Association at the same time, and on the same subject, the first shall have the preference.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be disposed of before another is offered.

6. When anything is taken up by the Association, after allowing reasonable time for debate, the moderator shall take the question, and those in favor of the thing proposed rise to their feet, and those against it shall keep their seats. The decision thus made shall be announced immediately.

7. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave, nor shall any person be made to close the subject until the debates are gone through with

9. The appellation of brother shall be used in addressing each other.

10. The moderator shall be entitled to the same liberty of speech as any other member, provided he appoint some other member to fill the chair while speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reproved as the Association may think proper.

Articles of Faith With Scriptural Proof

1. We believe in one only true and living God: The Father, the Word and Holy Ghost, and these three are

one. Proof: "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God; and the word was God." John 1:1. "For there are three that bear record in Heaven—the Father, the Word and Holy Ghost, and these three are one." John 5:7.

2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God; and the only rule of faith and practice. Proof: "For the prophecy came not in the old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2nd Peter 1:21. "All scriptures is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thouroughly furnished unto good works." 2nd Tim. 3: 16—17.

3. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace according to the foreknowledge of God, and that God chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world. Proof: "According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." Eph 1:4. "Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called and whom He called them He justified, and whom He justified them He also glorified." Rom. 8:30.

4. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is incapable of recovering himself there from. Proof: "No man can come to Me except the Father which hath sent Me draw him." John 6:44. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the Leopard his spots? Then ye may also do good that are accustomed to do evil." Jer. 13.3.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Proof: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2nd Cor. 5:21.

6. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away. Proof: "And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish." John 10:-28. "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye appear also with Him in glory." Col 3:3-4.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Proof: "For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39. "Who hath saved us and called with a holy call-

ing not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." 2nd Tim. 1:19.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and unjust, and a general judgement, and the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal. Proof: "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28. "Because He hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world, by that man whom He hath ordained." Acts 17:31.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion in water is the mode, and that persons administering the ordinances, who differ from the foregoing either in faith or practice are by us not regarded as legal Proof: "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus. also being baptized, and praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Ghost decended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him and a voice came from heaven which said, Thou art My beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased." Luke 3:-21-22. Jesus took bread and blessed and brake it and gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat, this is My body, and He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them saying drink ye all of it. Matt 26:26-27.

10. We believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the ordinances only such as are regularly baptised, called and come under the imposition of the Presbytery. Proof: "The Holy Ghost said seperate me. Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them, and when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them they sent them away." Acts 13:2-3. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." 1st Tim. 4:14.

11. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a right to commune at the Lord's table, nor can we, as an Association acknowledge as valid the administration of any other denomination, be their profession or mode what it may. Proof: "We have an alter whereof they have no right to eat, which serve the tabernacle." Heb. 10:13. From the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him; lo the people shall dwell alone and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

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